

Abstract

An integrated circuit for processing communication packets having separate data buffers and separate state information buffers. Each data buffer and each state information buffer (hereinafter termed resources) has
5 an associated in-use counter. Multiple events can share the same resource. The counter associated with a resource is incremented when a resource becomes associated with a particular event. The counter associated with a resource is decremented when an event completes the use of that particular resource. When the in-use counter for a resource
10 becomes zero, the in-use counter indicates that the resource is unassigned and that the resource can be assigned to a new event.

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